

THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE

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CATTERICK MILITARY TRAINING AREA CATTERICK TRACKS: RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

NYCC HER	
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ENY	6561
CNY	
Parish	1040/1076
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Catterick Tracks.

Results of Archaeological Intervention.

Background.

Plans for the construction of new trackways within the Catterick Training Area resulted in the commissioning of a archaeological desk top survey. This was carried out by Mike Griffiths and Associates in March and April 1995. The report identified a number of features of possible archaeological interest which included the bank and ditch of a parish boundary (originally, but erroneously, identified as the Wapentake boundary) planted with hawthorn, and existing (though now redundant) as a field boundary. It was decided through consultation between the archaeological section of North Yorkshire County Council and the Ministry of Defence, to trial trench sections of this boundary in order to provide evidence of dating and possible recutting. The work was carried out between the 10th and 12th April 1996.

Excavation.

In all, four trenches were opened at points where the proposed new trackway will cross the parish boundary bank and ditch. The trenches were located at right angles to the bank and ditch approximately 5m long by 1m wide with a maximum depth of 1.2m. A back-acting excavator with toothless bucket was used to excavate the trenches. These were subsequently cleaned by hand to provide a profile through the bank and ditch. Sections were then recorded at a scale of 1:20 and photographed: no feature (other than nineteenth-century or later ditches) survived to be recorded in plan. Work was carried out in accordance with the Standard Specifications produced by this Practice, copies of which are deposited with North Yorkshire County Council.

Trench 1.

Trench 1 was situated where the boundary crosses an area of low lying marshy ground. It was oriented north to south. The removal of the turf (001) exposed the yellow brown redeposited soil of the bank (002), on the north side of the ditch, and the natural boulder clay (003) immediately below the turf on the south side of the ditch. The ditch cut (004), which had a maximum depth of 40cm, was filled with loose brown soil and root material (005).

Trench 2.

Trench 2 lay to the west of trench 1 with a north-south orientation. Here the removal of turf (001) exposed the yellow brown redeposited material of the bank (002) and the natural boulder clay (003). The ditch cut (007) here had a maximum depth of 75cm with a fill of loose brown sandy soil (005) and a number of large, non structural stones.

Trench 3.

Trench 3 is situated on a field boundary which intersects at a right angle with the parish boundary west of trench 2. The field boundary is situated at the top of a steep, natural west facing slope. The trench, orientated east to west, exposed the redeposited material of the bank

(006), above the natural boulder clay. There was no evidence for a ditch cut and stones recorded in the bank were not structural.

Trench 4.

Trench 4 lay to the east of trench 1 and to the south of Scotton Beck. The trench here, again exposed yellow-brown redeposited bank material (002) immediately below the turf (001) and on top of the natural boulder clay (003). This was cut by a shallow ditch (008) with a maximum depth of 20cm.

Conclusions.

The trenches produced no evidence for recutting or earlier activity than the eighteenth / nineteenth century enclosure of the area. These are standard field boundaries of this period, and certainly produced nothing to suggest earlier origin, or any special treatment resulting from status as a parish boundary. This is perhaps not entirely surprising in view of the form customarily taken by mediaeval charters in the region, tending to emphasise natural features and lines between landmarks as boundaries, and rarely suggesting continuous, artificial boundary features.

Catalogue of Contexts.

001 Turf layer, 12-18cm thick.

002 A loose matrix of yellow-brown sandy soil which makes up the bank in trenches 1,2 and 4.

003 Natural yellow-brown boulder clay.

004 Ditch cut of trench 1.

005 A loose matrix of dark brown sandy soil which makes up the ditch fill in trench 1,2 and 4.

006 Yellow clay soil of trench 3 bank.

007 Ditch cut of trench 2.

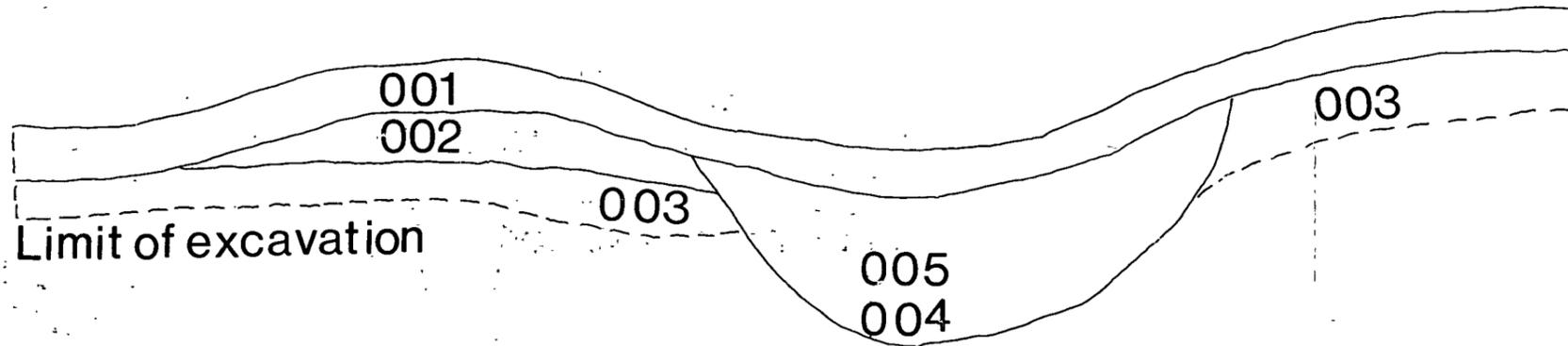
008 Ditch cut of trench 4.

Deborah Walsh
16,iv,1996

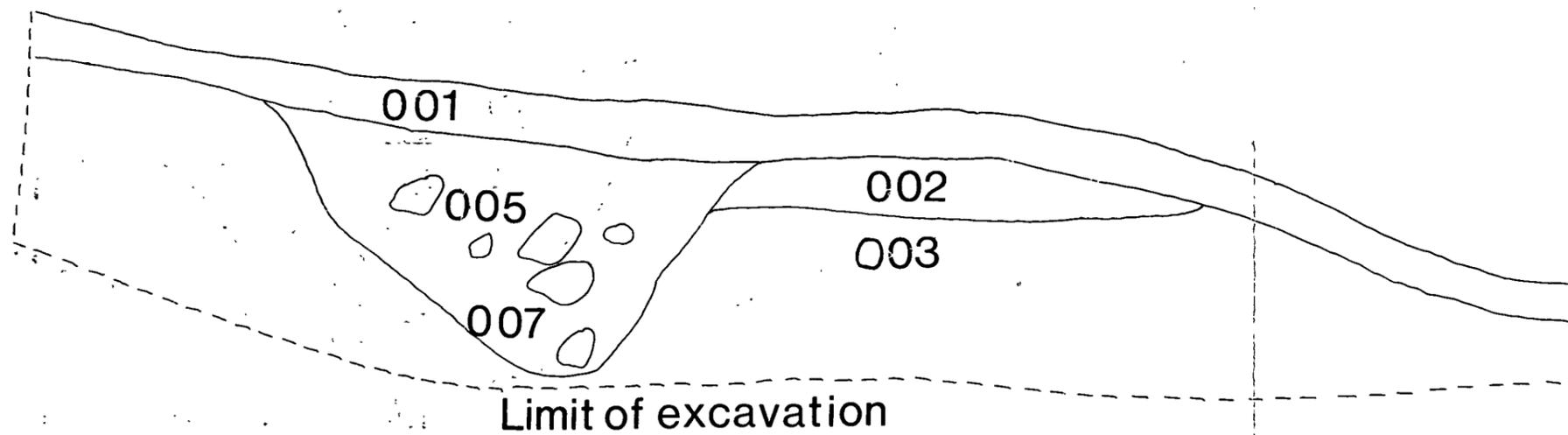
Catterick Parish Boundary Profiles

Scale 1:20

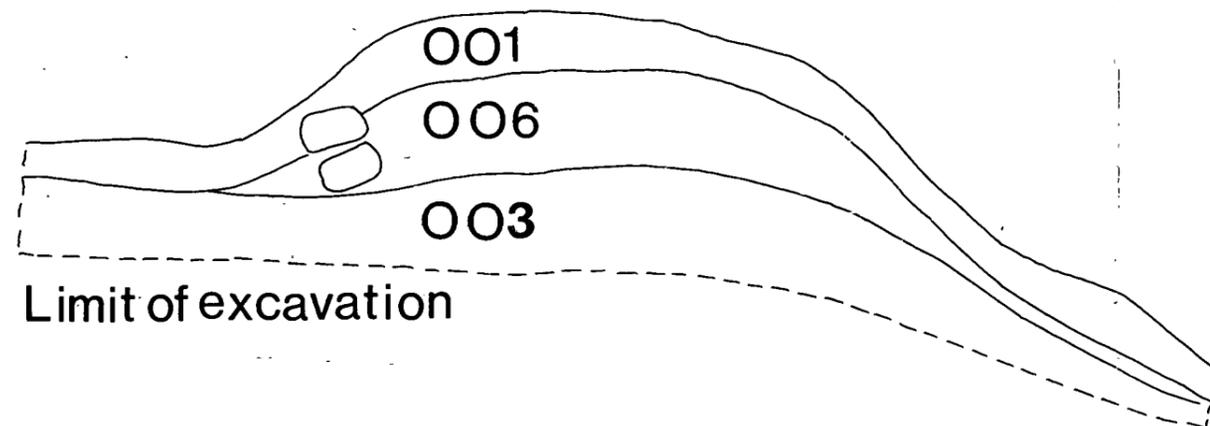
Trench 1: East facing section



Trench 2: West facing section



Trench 3: North facing section



Trench 4: West facing section

